

REMARKS/ARUGMENTS

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 11 and 12 will be canceled, claim 8 will be amended, and claims 13-22 will be added, whereby claims 1-10 and 13-22 will be pending. Claim 1 is the sole independent claim.

Applicants note that claims 13-22 have been added to include subject matter as presented in the originally presented multiple dependent claims. Accordingly, this amendment does not constitute new matter. Moreover, claim 8 has been amended to even more clearly present the subject matter therein, and no estoppel should be associated therewith.

Reconsideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Consideration Of Disclosure Statements

Applicants express appreciation for the inclusion with the Office Action of initialed copies of the Forms PTO-1449 submitted with Applicants' Information Disclosure Statement, filed September 19, 2002, and Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement, filed October 21, 2002, whereby the Examiner's consideration of these disclosure statements is of record.

Response to Formal Matters

Applicants express appreciation for the acknowledgment in the Office Action of the claim of foreign priority as well as receipt of the certified copy of the priority document in this national stage application.

Applicants further note that the Office Action indicates that the drawings submitted June 25, 2002 are accepted. In order that the record is clear, Applicants note that the drawings were, in fact, submitted on March 19, 2002.

The Office Action references the Preliminary Amendment filed March 19, 2002 amending claims 3-6 and 9-11, and requires that the Amendment be submitted using the new listing of claims format that is presently used by the Patent and Trademark Office.

In response, Applicants are submitting an amendment to the claims herein. Accordingly, in accordance with the recently implemented revised 37 C.F.R. 1.121, Applicants are presenting a complete listing of the claims.

Response To Indication Of Allowable Subject Matter And Rejection Based Upon JP

6-306264

Applicants express appreciation for the indication in the Office Action that claims 1-10 are allowable due to the novelty and unobviousness of the claimed process.

Moreover, Applicants note that claims 11-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by the compound disclosed in column 1 of Japanese Patent JP 06-306264 as well as claim 4.

By the amendment herein claims 11 and 12 have been canceled without expressing agreement or acquiescence with the rejection of record, and in order to advance prosecution of the allowed claims. Moreover, as noted above, dependent claims including subject matter recited in the originally presented multiple dependent claims is included in claims 13-22. Accordingly,

claims 1-10 and 13-22 should be in condition for allowance, and an early mailing of the Notices of Allowance and Allowability is respectfully requested.

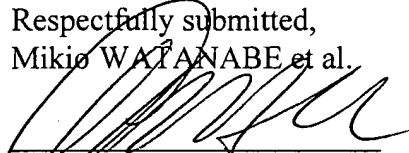
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections of record, and allow each of the pending claims.

Applicants therefore respectfully request that an early indication of allowance of the application be indicated by the mailing of the Notices of Allowance and Allowability.

Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
Mikio WATANABE et al.


Bruce H. Bernstein
Reg. No. 29,027

bpm 33,094

June 4, 2004
GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.
1941 Roland Clarke Place
Reston, VA 20191
(703) 716-119